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Adoption ceremony celebrates families

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Sun photograph by Lisa Yanick

Roxanne and Roger Davis began fostering children in 1994.

They began adopting children 10 years later because giving them up was too difficult.

Lisa and Bruce Beerbower started taking in foster children in 2002 and now have three biological children, two adopted children, one foster child and four foster children that the couple are in the process of adopting.

Over the years, the Davises have fostered more than 40 children; the Beerbowers have fostered 30.

During Michigan Adoption Day Tuesday, Isabella County Trial Judge William Ervin and two local elected officials honored the two families for going above and beyond for children in need of loving, stable homes.

Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt and State Rep. Bill Caul, R-Mt. Pleasant, expressed their appreciation for the efforts the Davis and Beerbower families have made to make a difference in the lives of children.

Paying tribute to the families, Ervin said they should be recognized for opening their



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hearts, homes and lives to children in need of permanent homes.

Cropsey, who has four children, applauded the Davis and Beerbower families for their efforts, and Caul said that "good families are the foundation for good communities."

For Roxanne Davis, of St. Louis, fostering came naturally.

Her mother fostered children, so she followed suit.

"I didn't intend to ever adopt," she said. "I just wanted to foster and help.

"I thought I could make a difference in kids' lives."

Roxanne soon changed her mind, however, after bonding with the children she cared for.

Today, the Davises have 11 children at home, nine adopted and two foster children who are in the process of being adopted, in addition to their four biological children.

Ranging in age from 3 to 19, the three boys and eight girls are Roxanne Davises' pride and joy.

Lisa and Bruce Beerbower started fostering because of their desire to take care of more children.

After fostering several children, the Beerbowers began adopting, Lisa Beerbower said.

The Beerbowers, who live in Midland, were at the Isabella County Courthouse for adoption day two years ago to finalize their adoption of their daughter, Ramona.

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